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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 104, September 8, 3 p.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 104, REPEATED INFORMATION DHAHRAN 24

INFORMATION FOR GENERAL SCHLATTER DHAHRAN

DEPTELS 117 and 120.

Using Royal Counselor Gargoni as interpreter, I was able tell King Saud last evening at dinner given by King Hussein that I knew he would be personally interested learn I had just received telegram from Department informing me 18 M-41 tanks he and Prince Mishaal desired for development SAG armed forces for defense Saudi Arabia could be delivered some six months hence.

(Note: I am asking General Schlatter at next meeting with Prince Mishaal remind him tanks may not be transferred without USG concurrence.)

King Saud expressed keen satisfaction and said tanks would not be for defense his country only but also for area defense with, as he had always wished, United States as friend. He added he would wish talk with me again "on these matters" after returning from Mecca next week.

He may also, though this seems less probable at present stage, open question renewal Dhahran airfield agreement.

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